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Docket No.: ECV-5631

## BEFORE THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Diana Nguyen-Thien-Nhon, et al.

) Group Art Unit: 3738

Application No.: 09/745,386

) Examiner: Alvin J. Stewart

Filing Date: December 21, 2000

For: HEART VALVE HOLDER THAT RESISTS SUTURE  
LOOPINGCommissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

## AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated December 1, 2001, please make the following changes.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 15-23.

The following are the remaining claims after amendment:

1. (Amended) A holder for a tissue-type prosthetic heart valve attachable to a surgical delivery handle, the heart valve having an inflow end and an outflow end and a flow axis therebetween, the valve including an annular suture ring at the inflow end and a plurality of generally axially-extending commissure posts circumferentially-spaced around the outflow end that support occluding tissue surfaces of the valve, the holder comprising:

a plurality of lengths of flexible material extending in a taut fashion across the outflow end of the valve to prevent suture looping, each length of material having a first segment extending directly between adjacent commissure posts and crossing over (i.e., intersecting) each adjacent length of material just radially inward from the commissure post therebetween.

2. The holder of claim 1, wherein the lengths of flexible material comprise lengths of suture.